

TRAFFIC COMMISSION
November 19, 2009 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic Commission was held in the Community Services Building, Community Room #104, 150 North Third Street, on the above date. Joseph Terranova, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Joe Terranova, Chair
Brian Malone, Vice Chair
Barry Gussow
Paul McKenna, Jr.
David Justl
Robert Heins
Gregory Bragg
Rebecca Granite-Johnson

Members Absent: Dennis Hooper

Staff Present: Ken Johnson– Traffic Engineering, Public Works
Sgt. Tom Kister– Police Department, Traffic
Jeanne Keeler– Parking Analyst, Public Works
Rabie Rahmani– Principal Civil Engineer, Public Works
Melissa Schnitzius– Recording Secretary, Public Works

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic Commission)

A. Public Communication

Ralph Herman, former Commission member, does not see a problem with the parking on the Olive Avenue Bridge due to the restrictions effective in 2008. He asked the Commissioners and staff to consider looking into the following issues:

1. The banner that was placed on the public right-of-way on Riverside Drive near Disney.
2. The blinking pedestrian lights on Main Street are not visible and blend in with the yellow lines on the street.
3. Staff reports to be posted on the City's website so the information is available.
4. The overhead electronic signs not being in compliance with the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).
5. The funding of the Magnolia signals project and its status.

John Kieffer, Educator at Miller Elementary School, asked the Commission to install stop signs at the intersection of Sixth Street and Cedar Avenue. His entire "English as a Second Language" class attended the meeting for support. He presented a letter from a student to the Commission, and a petition from the whole class supporting the addition of the stop signs.

Mary and Hermine Safaryan deferred their comments to concur with Mr. Keiffer's discussion on stop signs.

Lee Stacy, Operations Manager of GKN Aerospace, deferred oral communications to concur with Item F, Bandy Machining Crosswalk, on the agenda.

Roy Zinsky, employee of Bandy Machining, deferred oral communications to concur with Item F, Bandy Machining Crosswalk, on the agenda.

B. Commission Member Communication

Mr. Justl asked staff to come back to the Commission about the staff reports getting posted online.

Mr. Justl inquired about the status of City Council's decision on the dual turn lanes on Victory Blvd at Alameda Ave. Staff stated that parking was restored to that intersection and the business owners were content.

Mr. Justl asked about the status of modifying the left turn loops on Lake Street at Olive Avenue.

Mr. Bragg asked about the status of the valet parking issue on Main Street near Riverside Drive. Staff stated that the issue was resolved.

Mr. Malone asked about the status on the Verdugo Avenue fixed signals and the priority of Magnolia Street fixed signals.

C. Staff Communication

Mr. Johnson stated that signal improvement bids opened November 11, 2009.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Justl moved, and Brian Malone seconded, to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2009, meeting with one correction. Mr. Justl asked that the error on the third page be corrected before staff posts it online. The motion was approved with one abstention.

V. REPORTS

A. School Zone Safety Signage (formerly Item D)– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that the City uses the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) as a reference for school signage. The City works with the school principal on traffic matters around the schools. Mr. McKenna, Mr. Gussow, Ms. Granite-Johnson, Mr. Malone, Mr. Justl, and Mr. Terranova participated in the discussion.

Barry Gussow moved, and Brian Malone seconded, to do a study to determine how blinking lights, with a light on each side of the intersection, will affect safety for schools. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Taxicab Needs and Necessity for 2010– Ken Johnson

Mr. Hirsch recommended postponing this item until next year to allow the application period to close. Mr. Justl, Mr. Gussow, Mr. Terranova, and Mr. Hirsch participated in the discussion.

Item was tabled for a future date.

C. Taxi Cab Report (formerly Item A)– Terre Hirsch

Mr. Hirsch reported that License and Code did not receive many complaints this month. He reported that a taxi cab driver appealed the denial for a taxi license.

After doing research, staff found three cities that regulate non-emergency transportation businesses: Victorville, Glendale, and Los Angeles. Victorville regulates these businesses through a franchise process. Glendale and Los Angeles process them through a one-step two-step process. Mr. McKenna, Mr. Justl, Mr. Terranova, Mr. Gussow, Mr. Malone, Mr. Heins, and Ms. Granite-Johnson participated in the discussion.

Paul McKenna moved, and Rebecca Granite-Johnson seconded, to have staff look into the possibility of requiring non-emergency medical transportation vehicles to share the same requirements of taxi cabs. Motion was approved unanimously.

D. Street Sweeping Restrictions near Schools (formerly Item C)– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson explained the complexity of combining the needs of parking near schools and the scheduling of street sweepers. Staff will bring the item back. Mr. McKenna, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Terranova, Mr. Malone, and Rahmani participated in the discussion.

Item was tabled for a future date.

E. Bandy Machining crosswalk (formerly Item F)– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson invited staff from Bandy Machining to attend the meeting. The general consensus was for staff to use safer traffic control methods than crosswalks. Mr. Stacy, Mr. Zinsky, Ms. Keeler, Mr. Terranova, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Rahmani, Mr. Justl, Mr. Bragg, Sgt. Kister, and Mr. Malone participated in the discussion.

Paul McKenna moved, and Gregory Bragg seconded, to add a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Cohasset Street and Avon Street. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Parking of Vehicle with Banners on Olive Avenue Bridge (formerly Item E)– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that October is the only time there is a problem with a commercial vehicle on this bridge. Staff does not wish to take away parking in the area. Mr. Justl participated in the discussion.

Note and file

G. Traffic Commission Terms– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that the terms will be presented to City Council in December or January, or once they go through the City Clerk's Office.

Note and file

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Taxi Cab Needs and Necessity (October 2009)– Johnson
- Parking around schools at dismissal time on street sweeper day (June 2009)– Bragg
- Medical Transportation (February 2009)– Terranova
- Bicycle Helmet Education (September 2009)– McKenna
- Accident and Citation statistics for review (October 2008)– Flad
- Traffic Calming (March 08)– Johnson
- Status on Truck Routes (June 2009)– Justl
- Discussion of Parking in Magnolia Park (March 2009)– Terranova
- Commercial Vehicle Parking Restrictions (July 2008)– Johnson

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Paul McKenna moved, and Brian Malone seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Services Building, Room 104.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer
KJ: ms